



**Association for Behavioral
Health and Wellness**

*Advancing benefits and services
in mental health, substance use
and behavior change.*

May 22, 2014

The Honorable Ron Barber
U.S. House of Representatives
1029 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doris Matsui
U.S. House of Representatives
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana DeGette
U.S. House of Representatives
2368 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
U.S. House of Representatives
1610 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Barber, DeGette, Matsui, Napolitano, and Tonko:

On behalf of the Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness (ABHW), I would like to thank you for introducing comprehensive mental health legislation. ABHW is the national voice for companies that manage behavioral health and wellness benefits and has been an advocate for behavioral health issues since 1994. ABHW member companies provide specialty services to treat mental health, substance use, and other behaviors that impact health and wellness to approximately 125 million people in both the public and private sectors.

We would particularly like to thank you for the inclusion of several provisions that are of great importance to ABHW and its member companies. In particular, we were pleased to see that H.R. 4574, the Strengthening Mental Health in Our Communities Act, included the extension of health information technology assistance to behavioral health providers. In addition, we support coverage of marriage and family therapists and mental health counselors under Part B of the Medicare program. These two provisions will allow us to provide better care coordination and larger provider networks. ABHW has recently launched a Stamp Out Stigma initiative, so we are also supportive of your media campaign to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure passage of legislation that will reform the nation's mental health system. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Murow Klein at (202) 449-7658 or klein@abhw.org.

Sincerely,

Pamela Greenberg
President & CEO, ABHW

